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Washington, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of

Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company
Board of Directors

CC 97-21
CC 96-45

**NOMINATION OF SHERYL ABSHIRE TO THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS BY THE
CONSORTIUM FOR SCHOOL NETWORKING AND THE
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION**

On behalf the Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) and the International Society for Technology in Education, we submit the name of Sheryl Abshire, the District Administrative Coordinator of Technology for the Calcasieu Parish Public Schools in Lake Charles, Louisiana, to serve on the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors as a "Representative for schools that are eligible to receive discounts." Mrs. Abshire's nomination is also supported by the National Education Association, American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Knowledge Industry Association.

In our opinion, Mrs. Abshire's unique blend of hands-on experience with the E-Rate application process, her policymaking experience, and her leadership roles with both our organizations and the education community at large make her an excellent candidate for this USAC Board seat. It is our honor and privilege to work with her and to submit her name as a candidate for the USAC Board. Both CoSN and ISTE have been and will

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continue to be strong and active members of the Education and Libraries Networks Coalition, known as EdLiNC

The Consortium for School Networking and the International Society for *Technology in Education* are membership-based groups that serve educators who use technology to improve teaching and learning. For nearly a decade, CoSN, whose members include national education associations, local school districts, state education agencies and individual leaders in ed-tech that are committed to integrating technology into the classroom, has been in the forefront of efforts to improve learning in K-12 classrooms via the Internet and telecommunications. ISTE is a nonprofit professional organization with a worldwide membership of leaders in educational technology. ISTE promotes appropriate uses of information technology to support and improve learning, teaching, and administration in K–12 education and teacher education.

For the past thirty years, Sheryl Abshire has been an educator in the Calcasieu Parish School System, working as a teacher, a principal, a library media specialist, and currently as the Administrative Coordinator of Technology, but her most important role has been as a technology pioneer. Her accomplishments in integrating technology into education have been recognized through numerous awards, including a 1991 NEA/NFIE Christa McAuliffe Fellow, 1991 Louisiana Technology Teacher of the Year, 1992 National Teacher Hall of Fame Inductee, 1999 Louisiana Computer Using Educator of the Year, 1999 McNeese State University Distinguished Alumnus and the 2002 National Christa McAuliffe Award winner. In her current position, Mrs. Abshire coordinates all technology initiatives in a large and diverse school district and is responsible for all technology selection and use throughout the system. As a recent member of the ISTE

NETS Writing Team and the Technology for School Administrators Writing Team, she is deeply involved in infusing technology into standards based instruction. We believe that the USAC and SLD Boards would benefit greatly from Mrs. Abshire's immense storehouse of practical education technology knowledge.

If appointed to the USAC Board and, more specifically, to the Schools and Libraries Division's (SLD) Board, Mrs. Abshire would bring a wealth of E-Rate experience to this new role. On behalf of her district, which educates 32,321 students and employs over 4,500 teachers, administrators and support personnel, she has been directly responsible for the past seven years for researching, planning, filing, and implementing all phases of the E-Rate program. Her efforts have led to Calcasieu Parish School receiving over \$2.3 million in E-Rate discounts. These discounts have been strategically deployed to develop a robust infrastructure for the district's seventy remote sites and provide high-speed Internet connections in all of its 2,650 classrooms. Thanks to her tireless dedication, today the Calcasieu Parish Public School System is regarded as one of the most technologically sophisticated school districts in the country.

Sheryl Abshire's extraordinary financial policymaking experience at the local, state and federal levels would also be a tremendous asset on the USAC and SLD Boards. Beyond her position as Co-Chairman of the CoSN/ISTE Joint Policy Committee, through which she coordinates our responses to all federal education technology issues, Mrs. Abshire is the Chairman of the Louisiana Department of Education Committee to Advance Technology Standards. Additionally, since 1997 she has served as Chairman of the Louisiana Technology Advisory Commission, with the responsibility of overseeing and approving proposals for the expenditure of over \$100 million in technological

advancements for Louisiana schools. Finally, Mrs. Abshire serves as the Vice Chair of the Teacher's Retirement System of the Louisiana Board of Trustees and as the Chair of the Investment Committee, which oversees the placement of over \$11 billion in retirement funds. In our opinion, Mrs. Abshire's grasp of school and library technology needs coupled with her strong fiscal management background make her an extraordinary candidate for this Board seat.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Abshire has consistently been promoted to organizational leadership positions because of her deep-rooted knowledge of education, technology and financial issues, her forthrightness, and the tremendous respect and regard that her peers have for her. Just to cite a few examples, in addition to those already named, Mrs. Abshire is the vice chair of the National Education Association's Membership Advisory Committee, she has served as the past chair of the Louisiana Association of Educators' Instruction and Professional Development Committee, and, currently, she occupies the position of Vice President of the Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators, an ISTE affiliate. The leadership abilities embodied by these accomplishments would be of great use to her and to USAC and its constituents if she becomes a member of the USAC and SLD Boards.

Finally, throughout her career, Mrs. Abshire has evidenced both a willingness and an ability to work collaboratively with the corporate community, qualities that would be of considerable use if she joins the USAC and SLD Boards. Mrs. Abshire has served as a consultant/grant writer and reader for E-School News, Compaq Computer, National Foundation for the Improvement of Education, Apple Computer, Pioneer New Media Technologies, the American Online Foundation, the Beaumont Foundation, and

Educational Resources Moreover, she has served as a member of the national K-12 advisory councils for Compaq Computer, Knowledge Adventure and presently serves on the national advisory boards for Blackboard and Scholastic Administrator.

In conclusion, CoSN and ISTE have nominated Sheryl Abshire to the USAC and SLD Boards because we believe that she possesses the knowledge, experience, leadership skills, and collaborative abilities necessary to help guide the E-Rate program and all of universal service over the next several years We hope that the Commission sees fit to accept the nomination of this extraordinary public servant

Sincerely,



Keith Krueger

Chief Executive Officer

Consortium for School Networking



Don Knezek

Chief Executive Officer

International Society for
Technology in Education

SHERYL R. ABSHIRE
Calcasieu Parish School System
600 South Shattuck Street
Lake Charles, LA
337-437-6150 337-437-1249 (fax)
sheryl.abshire@cpsb.org

AFFILIATION: Calcasieu Parish Public Schools

TITLE: District Administrative Coordinator of Technology

EDUCATION: McNeese State University
BA, Early Childhood Education, cum laude, 1972
MA, Elementary Education, summa cum laude, 1975
Educational Specialist, Administration and Supervision,
summa cum laude, 1988

CERTIFICATION:
Kindergarten, Grades 1-8, School Librarian, Principal, Supervisor of Instruction,
School Superintendent

POSITIONS:
Calcasieu Parish School System
Administrative Coordinator of Technology, 1998 -present
Principal, Prien Lake Elementary, 1995 - 1998
Principal, Westwood Elementary, 1991- 1995
Librarian/Media Specialist: 1978 - 1990, College Oaks
Elementary, St John Elementary, T.S. Cooley
Elementary
Second & Fourth Grade Teacher: 1973 - 1978, T S. Cooley
Elementary, Opelousas Street Elementary
McNeese State University
Instructor, Education 660, Technology for School
Administrators, 1997
Visiting Lecturer, 1990 - 1997
Instructor, Educational Technology 650, 1989
Student Teaching Supervisor, 10 years
University of Louisiana at Monroe
Instructor, Education 489, Curriculum Enhancement with
Technology, 2001 – present; LEADTech – 2001 - present
University of Southern California at Monterey
Technology Leadership Trainer, 1998

EXTENDED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana – Board of Trustees – Vice Chair,
Chair – Investment Committee – 1990 – present

LACUE – Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators- Vice-President,
2002- present

Blackboard Advisory Board – 2002- present

Scholastic Administrator Advisory Board – 2002- present

Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) -National Board of Directors and
Executive Committee, Secretary and Chair of the Public Policy
Committee 2000 – present

ISTE National Technology Standards for School Administrators Writing Team
2000 - present

Chairman – Louisiana State Technology Advisory Commission, 1997 –
present

Compaq Advisory Board – 1998 – 2000

Knowledge Adventure Advisory Board – 1999 - 2001

Chairman – Louisiana Dept. of Ed Committee to Advance Technology
Standards, 1998 – present

Louisiana Technology Planning Committee

ISTE National Educational Technology Standards for Students Connecting
Curriculum and Technology Writing Team

Project Director: Cellular Telecommunications Industry of America –
Panasonic Classlink Grant

Grant Administrator. Calcasieu Parish Louisiana Challenge Grant,
Louisiana TLCF Professional Development Program, Drew Foundation -
1993-97

Program Administrator: Louisiana Quality Education Support Fund –
8(g) Grants, 1990-91, 1995-96, 1996-97

Trainer/Consultant/Grant Writer/Grant Evaluator. Coronet/MTI, AT&T, Apple
Computer, Pioneer Communications, Pioneer New Media Technologies,
Educational Resources, National Foundation for the Improvement of
Education, Lightspan Partnership, Compaq Computer, Roger Wagner
Publishing, Eschool News, America Online Foundation, Mississippi
Department of Education, Knowledge Adventure, Beaumont Foundation of
America

Louisiana Network Information Infrastructure Steering Committee –
1994

U.S. Advisory Council for the National Information Infrastructure
Sub-Committee – 1994

Louisiana Goals 2000 Commission – 1994

National Education Association - Instructional and Professional
Development Committee, Professional Standards and Practices
Committee, Membership Advisory Committee –
1990 - present

Louisiana - Governor Edwards - Technology Task Force, Education
Transition Team Task Force

Louisiana Systemic Initiatives State Program Panel
McNeese State University Teacher Education Advisory Panel
NBC/KPLC Great Expectations/Class Act Education Project Board
Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators – Program/State
Awards Chair, Board of Directors
NTE National Advisory Committee

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

NEA – 2002 Christa McAuliffe Award
LACUE – 1999 Louisiana Computer Using Educator of the Year
McNeese State University Distinguished Alumnus Award, 1999
National Principal's Leadership Academy – University of Delaware,
1993-1994
Inductee: National Teachers Hall of Fame, 1992
Recognized by President Clinton and Secretary Riley at a White
House ceremony as the first teacher inducted into the National Teachers
Hall of Fame
1992 Phi Delta Kappa Award
1991 National Foundation for the Improvement of Education –
Christa McAuliffe Fellow
1991 Louisiana Technology Teacher of the Year
1990 Calcasieu Parish Computer Teacher of the Year
National Foundation for the Improvement of Education Call For
Innovation In Technology Practice Award
Computer Learning Foundation National Grand Prize Winner - Best
Elementary Technology Lesson Plan
Broderbund Future Film Directors of America Award

CURRENT AND RECENT PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION INVOLVEMENT:

Member ISTE, ASCD, CoSN, LACUE, Phi Delta Kappa, National Staff
Development Council, National Education Association